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TEA KETTLE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to kitchen utensils, and more particularly to tea kettles.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Tea kettles having spout lids to cover the spout of the kettle have previously been provided. To keep these lids open, a user was typically required to maintain his grip on the tea kettle handle, while at the same time using one of his fingers or thumb to engage a portion of the spout lid to open the same.

Other kettles include handles which open the spout lid when they are grasped and the kettle is lifted. These kettles, however, require a user to maintain his grasp on the handle and keep the kettle lifted to maintain the lid open. These kettles typically have bail type handles which are connected at both its ends to the kettle body. To be able to withstand heat, these ends are required to be formed of a heat-resistant material, such as a metal, and therefore cannot be formed of many non-heat resistant cushioning materials. Subsequently, these handle ends may burn a user's hand if accidentally grabbed thereby.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a general object of the invention to provide an improved tea kettle, while affording additional structural and operating advantages.

An important feature of the invention is the provision of a tea kettle which is of relatively simple and economical construction.

A further feature of the invention is the provision of a kettle of the type set forth with a spout lid which can easily be opened by simply lifting the kettle.

A still further feature of the invention is the provision of a kettle of the type set forth, which allows the spout lid of the kettle to be easily maintained in either an open or closed position.

Yet another feature of the invention is the provision of a kettle of the type set forth, which has a handle with a free cantilever end which makes grasping easy and aids in preventing the burning of a user's hand.

One or more of these features may be attained by providing a kettle includes a body defining a storage unit and having a spout defining an opening into the storage unit. The kettle includes a spout lid coupled to the body for rotation about a first axis between a closed position wherein the lid covers the opening and an open position wherein the lid is spaced from the opening. The kettle also includes a handle having first and second ends and coupled to the body for rotation about a second axis disposed between the first and second ends and engageably coupled to the spout lid, wherein the rotation of the handle in a first direction causes movement of the lid to its open position and rotation of the handle in a second direction causes movement of the lid to its closed position.

The invention consists of certain novel features and a combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the details may be made without departing from the spirit, or sacrificing any of the advantages of the present invention.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of the invention, there is illustrated in the accompanying drawings a preferred embodiment thereof, from an inspection of which, when considered in connection with the following description, the invention, its construction and operation, and many of its advantages should be readily understood and appreciated.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the kettle of the present invention when the spout lid is in the closed condition;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the kettle of the present invention when the spout lid is held in the open condition by a user's hand on the handle;

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the spout lid opening and closing mechanism of the kettle of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged, fragmentary, side elevational view of the kettle of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged, fragmentary, top plan view of the kettle of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken generally along line 6—6 of FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged, fragmentary, sectional view of the lid opening and closing mechanism of FIG. 6 when the spring has been compressed;

FIG. 8 is a sectional view similar to FIG. 6 when the lid spout is in an open condition; and

FIG. 9 is an enlarged, fragmentary, sectional view taken generally along line 9—9 of FIG. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, a tea kettle 10 includes a substantially part-spherical body 12 preferably formed from a metal, such as stainless steel. The body 12 has a central axis "A" (FIG. 6) and defines a storage unit for holding a liquid, such as water, to be heated. The body 12, as seen in FIG. 6, includes a wall 13 defining a spout aperture 14 and a larger second aperture 16, each for accommodating the passage of liquid into and out of the storage unit.

The kettle 10 also includes a cylindrical spout 18 coupled to the portion of wall 13 defining the spout aperture 14 by welding or the like.

The kettle 10 also includes a bracket 20 (FIG. 6) coupled to the wall 13 by welding or the like. A support 22 is coupled to the bracket 20 by a pair of screws 24.

The support 22 includes a first arm 26 having a clevis end 28 with two spaced-apart extensions 30, each having an aperture 32. The support 22 also includes a second arm 34 having a clevis end 36 with two spaced-apart extensions 38, each having an aperture 40.

As discussed below, the support 22 also has an inner wall 42 (FIGS. 3 and 6) disposed between the extensions 38 at clevis end 36.

The kettle 10 also includes a handle 44 having a first end 46 and a free cantilevered second end 48. The handle 44 has a metal body 49 formed from a metal such as zinc, and a cover 50 disposed about the second end 48 and made of elastomeric material, such as that sold by Advanced Elastomer Systems under the tradename Santoprene. The elastomeric material of the cover 50 provides a user with a good, cushioned grip and thermal insulation.

As best seen in FIG. 9, the handle 44 includes a bore 51 and is coupled to the clevis end 28 of the first arm 26 of the